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2 May 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

NOT SENT TO: Chief, [REDACTED]

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SUBJECT: Chinese Communist Anti-Moslem Propaganda
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1. On 5 April [REDACTED] informally requested copies of any available Chinese Communist propaganda material directed against the Moslems. He was especially interested in printed material published in Kashgar, Sinkiang Province, as follows:

- a. Atheistic publications,
- b. Articles urging Moslems to adopt attitudes contrary to Islamic doctrine,
- c. Laws of or affecting Sinkiang Autonomous Province,
- d. Derogatory or patronizing references to people of any of the Afro-Asian Conference countries,
- e. References to continued existence of HSIAO MIEH campaign.

2. No evidence is available on a current Chinese Communist persecution campaign of Chinese Muslims in China. Indications are, however, that the Communist regime is attempting to utilize these Muslims.

3. In April 1952 the Chinese Communist press admitted the existence of a Muslim revolt against the Communist regime in China. In January 1953 a Spanish missionary who had "recently" returned from Kansu Province in Northwest China, confirmed the continuation of this rebellion, stating that the anti-Communist Muslims have controlled a mountainous area in eastern Kansu for almost 18 months and that "for political reasons Chinese Communist leaders have not yet launched

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an all-out attack to crush the revolt." At that time OCI commented: "This is the only confirmed instance of resistance to the Chinese Communist regime on this scale." CIA, OCI, Current Intelligence Digest, item 6, 13 Jan 53, Secret.

4. A CS report, dealing with Muslims and Muslim associations in Communist China, and covering information as late as August 1954, failed to indicate the existence of extensive persecution of Muslims in China. The report indicated that Communist authorities were attempting to control and utilize the Muslims. One method of control, as deduced from the report, is carried through close supervision of educational and religious institutions and societies. The report also indicated that the Communist authorities persecuted Muslim followers of the Nationalist regime, but were tolerant of the rest of the Muslims. As for violation of Muslim traditions and rituals, the report gave only the case of beef slaughtering through electrocution instead of butchering with knives. CIA, [redacted] 25 Feb 55, Confidential

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5. Other reports on file in [redacted] confirm the information reported in paragraph 3.

6. In our attempts to collect Chinese Communist propaganda material directed to the Moslems, we contacted the CIA/LIB, FDD, FBID, OCI, ORR and FE Division within CIA and the Department of State and USIA. None of these offices is able to furnish any such material.

7. While we have found little or no evidence of Chinese Communist atheistic propaganda against Moslems, there is considerable on the Soviet side. Several instances are treated in State Department's Soviet Affairs Notes #144 of 20 April 1953. One on page 5 states that "In the fall of 1949 an anti-religious propaganda museum was opened in Tashkent (Pravda Vostoka, 5 Oct 1949), while the number of anti-religious lectures delivered by Communist officials increased."

8. More recently a USIA report stated, "A broadcast by the Soviet radio at ASHKHABAD in Soviet Turkmenistan in February 1955 called attention to a new series of booklets designed to undermine belief in God among the Muslims of the USSR." (USIA/IM-144-55 - Current Indications of the Soviet Attitude Toward Islam, Unclassified, 15 Nov 55).

9. These two reports also discuss a number of laws with provisions directed against the Islamic faith in the USSR.

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10. Our Dissemination Branch knows of your need for this type material and will forward it as received.

~~RECOMMENDATIONS~~

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Approved For Release 2000/08/27 : CIA-RDP78-02771R000500570025-5
SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT ON THE TREATMENT OF MOSLEMS IN THE SOVIET BLOC

Foreign Documents Division

Report for 23 October 1952

Foreign language press and periodicals received during the week ending 23 October 1952 reveal the following on the treatment of Moslems in the Soviet orbit.

In China, an article by Burhan, Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the Chinese Moslem Association, was published in the Nan-fang Jih-pao, Canton, 24 September 1952, in which he declared that Moslems in China will join the united front to fight anyone who dares threaten or violate the security of the motherland. He speaks highly of the treatment extended to members of the Islamic faith and the freedom of religion granted to the Moslems by the Central People's Government.

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